

A Letter from the Commander



There are not many musical works or personalities that could stand alone when paired with the incredible talent, versatility and diversity of the many celebrities that form the core of our annual Guest Artist Series. However, if anything could shine forth, it would be the music of Washington, D.C.'s own Duke Ellington. During this year's Guest Artist Series, and in tribute to the 100th anniversary of his birth, I will be lead-

ing The Symphony Orchestra and Airmen of Note in a series of Ellington's symphonic music. Very few organizations have the resources to present so much of this American master's works. On March 21, as a special feature, the Duke Ellington School for the Arts Show Choir will join members of The Air Force Band in performing some of the spectacular, soul-piercing music of this all-American original. I hope you will find time to join us in March, as "America's Band" performs some of the finest works for symphonic orchestra ever written. We hope to culminate our recognition of the Ellington centenary with a performance at the Mid-west Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago in December. Please watch for more information later in the year. I can't think of a more inspiring way to end the millenium, and bring in the new year.

Plans are well under way, with the final touches being placed on one of the most exciting projects of your Air Force Band's 1999 calendar. In late September, I will be leading a European tour of "Remembering the Glenn

Miller AAF Orchestra." It is difficult for me to describe the honor and pleasure I feel in representing the music of this immortal American to our selfless airmen, soldiers and sailors overseas. "America's Band" will have the historic opportunity to present this program to our European friends as well. We are grateful for the chance once again, to serve as international musical ambassadors to the peoples of the world.

As I sit to write this letter, I would be truly remiss if I neglected to recognize one of the finest Air Force professionals with whom I have ever had the pleasure to work. The USAF Band First Sergeant Master Sergeant Carol Jackson will be leaving us in April for reassignment to Oosan, Korea. She is a truly gifted individual who every day balanced her care and concern for every member of the band with her desire to represent me as commander and the entire squadron as the true Air Force professionals that we all are. Sergeant Jackson never hesitated to take on the tough challenges or long assignments. She made herself available to every member of my command 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Her skill and acumen will be sorely missed. Most difficult to replace will be her ever-present smile and positive professional attitude. Good luck to you Sergeant Jackson, as you take on additional responsibilities and challenges. On behalf of every member of this unit, I wish you great fortune and Godspeed.

Lowell E. Graham, Colonel, USAF
Commander and Conductor

The Concert Band

The Concert Band will kick off the month of March with a performance featuring Melba Moore at the March 7 Guest Artist Series concert. On March 14, in lieu of a Guest Artist Series performance, we will be marching in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Joining forces with The Singing Sergeants, The Concert Band will present a concert at The College Union Ballroom of Gettysburg College at 7:30 p.m. on March 30.

In April we hit the road on our annual Spring Tour. We begin on April 8 in Wheeling, W.Va. Our 14-day tour will take us through West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, culminating in Joliet, Ill. on April 20. Closer to home, we will play two concerts with The Singing Sergeants at The Weinberg Center in Frederick, Md. at 8 p.m. on April 27 and 28.

—MSgt Jeffrey Gaylord